

THE CLAIMS

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing telephone numbers, comprising:
an area code processor having

means, responsive to called party information, for producing a list of telephone
numbers, the list-producing means comprising:

a telephone number database comprising

dialing rules for formulating telephone numbers for use in making
calls from one of a multiplicity of geographic locations to
another of the multiplicity of geographic locations; and

a caller interface, in communication with a calling party and the area code
processor, having

means for monitoring call initiation signals,

means, responsive to the monitoring means, for receiving called
party information, and

means, responsive to the producing means, for selecting a target
telephone number from the list of telephone numbers.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An apparatus for processing telephone numbers of claim 11,
wherein, comprising:

~~an area code processor having~~

~~means, responsive to called party information, for producing a list of~~

~~telephone numbers, comprising~~

~~a~~ the telephone number database further comprises ~~comprising~~

a calling party dialing list; and
a caller interface, in communication with a calling party and the area code processor,
having
means for monitoring call initiation signals,
means, responsive to the monitoring means, for receiving called party
information, and
means, responsive to the producing means, for selecting a target
telephone number from the list of telephone numbers.

13. (Currently Amended) The~~An~~ apparatus for processing telephone numbers, of claim 11,
further comprising:

an area code processor having
means, responsive to called party information, for producing a list of
telephone numbers;
a caller interface, in communication with a calling party and the area code processor,
having
means for monitoring call initiation signals,
means, responsive to the monitoring means, for receiving called party
information, and
means, responsive to the producing means, for selecting a target
telephone number from the list of telephone numbers; and
means for associating identification information with the calling party.

14. (Original) The apparatus for processing telephone numbers of claim 13, wherein the identification information associated with the calling party comprises calling party location information.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus for processing telephone numbers of claim 14, wherein the producing means is further responsive to the dialing rules, thea calling party dialing list, and the identification information associated with the calling party.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing telephone numbers, comprising:

an area code processor having

means, responsive to called party information, for producing a list of telephone

numbers, the list-producing means comprising:

a telephone number database comprising

any of information on valid area codes, information on the

geographical areas associated with valid area codes,

information on valid exchanges within valid area

codes, and information on geographical areas

associated with valid exchanges; and

dialing rules for formulating telephone numbers for use in

making calls from one of a multiplicity of

geographic locations to another of the multiplicity

of geographic locations; and

a caller interface, in communication with a calling party and the area code

processor, having

means for monitoring call initiation signals,

means, responsive to the monitoring means, for receiving called party information, and

means, responsive to the producing means, for selecting a target telephone number from the list of telephone numbers.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) The apparatus for processing telephone numbers of claim 16, wherein the telephone number database further comprises a calling party dialing list.

19. (Original) The apparatus for processing telephone numbers of claim 16, wherein the telephone number database further comprises information on valid telephone numbers within valid exchanges.

20. (Original) The apparatus for processing telephone numbers of claim 16, wherein the telephone number database further comprises information on the relationship of each of a plurality of area code service areas.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing telephone numbers, comprising:

an area code processor, and

a caller interface, in communication with a calling party and the area code processor,

having

means for monitoring call initiation signals, and

means, responsive to the monitoring means, for receiving called party information and calling party identification information,

wherein the area code processor comprises means, responsive to the called party

identification information and dialing rules for formulating telephone numbers for use in making calls from one of a multiplicity of geographic locations to another of the multiplicity of geographic locations, for producing a target telephone number.

24. (Original) The apparatus for processing telephone numbers of claim 23, wherein the calling party identification information includes calling party location information.

25. (Original) The apparatus for processing telephone numbers of claim 23, wherein the producing means comprises a telephone number database.

26. (Currently Amended) The apparatus for processing telephone numbers of claim 25, wherein the telephone number database comprises the dialing rules.

27. (Original) The apparatus for processing telephone numbers of claim 26, wherein the telephone number database further comprises a calling party dialing list.

28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus for processing telephone numbers of claim 27, wherein the producing means is further responsive to ~~the dialing rules and the calling party dialing list~~.

29. (Original) The apparatus for processing telephone numbers of claim 23, further comprising a call generator, in communication with the caller interface and a telecommunications network, having means for initiating a call to the target telephone number.

30. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing telephone numbers, comprising:
an area code processor having means, responsive to called party information, ~~and calling party identification information~~ and dialing rules for formulating telephone numbers for use in making calls from one of a multiplicity of geographic

locations to another of the multiplicity of geographic locations, for producing a list of telephone numbers; and

a caller interface, in communication with a calling party and the area code processor, having means for monitoring call initiation signals, means, responsive to the monitoring means, for receiving the called party information and the calling party identification information, and means, responsive to the producing means, for selecting a target telephone number from the list of telephone numbers.

31. (Original) The apparatus for processing telephone numbers of claim 30, wherein the calling party identification information includes calling party location information.

32. (Original) The apparatus for processing telephone numbers of claim 30, wherein the producing means comprises a telephone number database.

33. (Currently Amended) The apparatus for processing telephone numbers of claim 32, wherein the telephone number database comprises the dialing rules.

34. (Original) The apparatus for processing telephone numbers of claim 33, wherein the telephone number database further comprises a calling party dialing list.

35. (Currently Amended) The apparatus for processing telephone numbers of claim 34, wherein the producing means is further responsive to ~~the dialing rules and the calling party~~ dialing list.

36. (Original) The apparatus for processing telephone numbers of claim 30, further comprising a call generator, in communication with the caller interface and a telecommunications network, having means for initiating a call to the target telephone number.

37-46. (Cancelled)

47. (Currently Amended) A method for processing telephone numbers, comprising the steps of:

monitoring call initiation signals from a calling party;

receiving, responsive to the monitoring step, called party information;

producing, responsive to the called party information, a list of telephone numbers,

comprising the use of a telephone number database,

wherein the telephone number database comprises dialing rules for formulating

telephone numbers for use in making calls from one of a multiplicity of

geographic locations to another of the multiplicity of geographic

locations; and

selecting, responsive to the producing step, a target telephone number from the list of

telephone numbers.

48. (Currently Amended) A method for processing telephone numbers, comprising the steps of:

monitoring call initiation signals from a calling party;

receiving, responsive to the monitoring step, called party information;

producing, responsive to the called party information and dialing rules for formulating

telephone numbers for use in making calls from one of a multiplicity of

geographic locations to another of the multiplicity of geographic locations, a list

of telephone numbers, comprising the use of a telephone number database,

wherein the telephone number database comprises a calling party dialing list; and

selecting, responsive to the producing step, a target telephone number from the list of telephone numbers.

49. (Currently Amended) A method for processing telephone numbers, comprising the steps of:

monitoring call initiation signals from a calling party;

receiving, responsive to the monitoring step, called party information;

producing, responsive to the called party information and dialing rules for formulating telephone numbers for use in making calls from one of a multiplicity of geographic locations to another of the multiplicity of geographic locations, a list of telephone numbers;

selecting, responsive to the producing step, a target telephone number from the list of telephone numbers; and

associating identification information with the calling party.

50. (Original) The method for processing telephone numbers of claim 49, wherein the identification information associated with the calling party comprises calling party location information.

51. (Currently Amended) The method for processing telephone numbers of claim 50, wherein the producing step is further responsive to ~~dialing rules~~, a calling party dialing list, and the identification information associated with the calling party.

52. (Currently Amended) A method for processing telephone numbers, comprising the steps of:

monitoring call initiation signals from a calling party;

receiving, responsive to the monitoring step, called party information;

producing, responsive to the called party information, a list of telephone numbers, comprising the use of a telephone number database, wherein the telephone number database comprises any of information on valid area codes, information on the geographical areas associated with valid area codes, information on valid exchanges within valid area codes, ~~and~~ information on geographical areas associated with valid exchanges, and dialing rules for formulating telephone numbers for use in making calls from one of a multiplicity of geographic locations to another of the multiplicity of geographic locations; and selecting, responsive to the producing step, a target telephone number from the list of telephone numbers.

53. (Cancelled)

54. (Original) The method for processing telephone numbers of claim 52, wherein the telephone number database further comprises a calling party dialing list.

55. (Original) The method for processing telephone numbers of claim 52, wherein the telephone number database further comprises information on valid telephone numbers within valid exchanges.

56. (Original) The method for processing telephone numbers of claim 52, wherein the telephone number database further comprises information on the relationship of each of a plurality of area code services areas.

57. (Cancelled)

58. (Cancelled)

59. (Currently Amended) A method for processing telephone numbers, comprising the steps of:

monitoring call initiation signals from a calling party;

receiving, responsive to the monitoring step, called party information and calling party

identification information; and

producing, responsive to the called party information, ~~and the calling party identification~~

information, and dialing rules for formulating telephone numbers for use

in making calls from one of a multiplicity of geographic locations to another of

the multiplicity of geographic locations, a target telephone number.

60. (Original) The method for processing telephone numbers of claim 59, wherein the calling party identification information includes calling party location information.

61. (Original) The method for processing telephone numbers of claim 59, wherein the producing step comprises the use of a telephone number database.

62. (Currently Amended) The method for processing telephone numbers of claim 61, wherein the telephone number database comprises the dialing rules.

63. (Original) The method for processing telephone numbers of claim 62, wherein the telephone number database further comprises a calling party dialing list.

64. (Currently Amended) The method for processing telephone numbers of claim 63, wherein the producing step is ~~further~~ responsive to the dialing rules and the calling party dialing list.

65. (Original) The method for processing telephone numbers of claim 59, further comprising the step of initiating a call to the target telephone number.

66. (Currently Amended) A method for processing telephone numbers, comprising the steps of:

monitoring call initiation signals from a calling party;
receiving, responsive to the monitoring step, called party information and calling party identification information;
producing, responsive to the called party information, ~~and the calling party identification~~ information, and dialing rules for formulating telephone numbers for use in making calls from one of a multiplicity of geographic locations to another of the multiplicity of geographic locations, a list of telephone numbers; and
selecting, responsive to the producing step, a target telephone number from the list of telephone numbers.

67. (Original) The method for processing telephone numbers of claim 66, wherein the calling party identification information includes calling party location information.

68. (Original) The method for processing telephone numbers of claim 66, wherein the producing step comprises the use of a telephone number database.

69. (Currently Amended) The method for processing telephone numbers of claim 68, wherein the telephone number database comprises the dialing rules.

70. (Original) The method for processing telephone numbers of claim 69, wherein the telephone number database further comprises a calling party dialing list.

71. (Currently Amended) The method for processing telephone numbers of claim 70, wherein the producing step is ~~further~~ responsive to the dialing rules and the calling party dialing list.

72. (Original) The method for processing telephone numbers of claim 66, further comprising the step of initiating a call to the target telephone number.